(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Leprosy Eradication Programme is trying to prevent relapse among patients; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As on 31st December, 2005, there are only 1,06,666 leprosy patients under treatment in India.

All these patients are receiving free treatment services which are available through all Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals/ Dispensaries throughout the country. Reconstructive Surgery on deformed patients is being carried out in identified hospitals and Medical Colleges. In addition, there are 41 Non Government Organization (NGO) institutions supported by International Federation of Anti Leprosy Association (ILEP) providing prevention of deformity, ulcer care services and Re-Constructive Surgeries.

(b) and (c) Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) which was introduced in 1982 for treatment of leprosy has proved to be very effective for prevention of relapse. In NLEP, MDT is given for treatment to all leprosy patients, hence chances of development of relapse are very minimal.

Codex Alimentarius Commission on Food Adulteration

2029. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the matter of prevention of food adulteration;

(b) whether Government are considering to harmonise the labeling norms concerning packaged food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules with those prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the benefits expected to accrue to the consumers by the proposed revision of rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international body and different countries are its members. It is concerned with setting up standards and

codes of hygienic practices. The CAC is not concerned with making recommendations in the matter of prevention of food adulteration. For advising on all matters of prevention of food adulteration in the country, there is a statutory committee, the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) constituted under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954.

(b) and (c) While formulating standards under PFA Rules, 1955, the Codex standards, including labeling provisions are taken into consideration wherever necessary. Recently, Ministry of Health and family Welfare has notified a draft amendment to the PFA Rules vide GSR No. 694(E) dated 28.11.2005 for labeling of food items, taking into consideration the Codex guidelines on labeling of prepared foods, for inviting objections and suggestions from all stake-holders. Amending the labeling provisions under PFA Rules, taking into consideration the Codex guidelines, is likely to provide informed choice to the consumers besides incorporatiang provisions relating to health safety.

Trader friendly measures to check food adulteration

2030. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the institutional or any other machinery to check food adulteration;

(b) whether Government have any information of such adulteration;

(c) whether Government are in agreement with the recent media reports on food adulteration;

(d) if so, how could such adulteration take place;

(e) whether the accountability has been fixed and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) what trader-friendly steps are being taken to firm up the institutional mechanism to check food adulteration without causing unnecessary harassment to traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) To check